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Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1941.

By R. DE VEIL KING,

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

WELLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1941.

Medical Officer of Health—

R. DE VEIL KING, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

HIGH GREEN, COMEYTROWE, TAUNTON, SOM.

*Telephone—*Taunton 3389.

Isolation Hospital—

CHEDDON ROAD, TAUNTON.

Telephone: Taunton 2396.

Sanitary Inspector—

EDWARD WALLER, CERT. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

R. D. C. Offices, North Street, Wellington, Somerset.

Telephone: Wellington 333/334.

Residence: 65, WATERLOO ROAD, WELLINGTON, SOM.

Telephone: Wellington 345.

Clerk of the Council—

P. WITCHELL ORCHARD, A.R.V.A.,

R.D.C. Offices, North Street, Wellington, Somerset.

Telephone: Wellington 333 and 334.

Residence: "ROSEMARY," WELLESLEY PARK, WELLINGTON, SOM.

Telephone: Wellington 252.

Chairman of the Council—

E. A. RICHARDS, ESQ., J.P., C.C.

HORNSHAY FARM, NYNEHEAD, TAUNTON, SOM.

Telephone: Wellington 200.

Chairman of the Public Health Committee—

CAPTAIN J. WYNDHAM, J.P.

BATHEALTON COURT, BATHEALTON, TAUNTON, SOM.

Telephone: Wiveliscombe 225.

WELLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1941..

Area (in Acres)	37,911
Estimate of Resident Population	9,749
Census Population, 1931	7,525
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books, Dec. 31st, 1941	2,203
Rateable Value—31st Dec., 1941	£30,199
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 31st Dec., 1941 ..	£132

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births—For Birth Rate 105, but for calculations of Infant Mortality Rate, 136 (per Registrar General).

	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ..	10.77
Legitimate	100	49	51		
Illegitimate	5	5	—		
	—	—	—		
	105	54	51		
	—	—	—		

Still Births—Total .. For Birth Rate 2, for I.M. Rate, 3.

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births .. 18.69

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population 0.25

Deaths—Total .. 99

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population 10.15

Deaths from Puerperal causes:—

	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Rates per 1,000 Births</i> <i>(live and still).</i>
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	—
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil	—

Deaths of Infants under one year of age—Total .. 3

Legitimate .. 3. Illegitimate .. Nil.

Death rate of all Infants per 1,000 Live Births .. 28.57

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 17

„ „ Measles (all ages) Nil

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil

„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) Nil

*Rates for England and Wales as a whole,
per 1,000 Civilian Population*

Live Births	14.2	„	„	„
Still Births	0.51	„	„	„
Deaths, all causes	12.9	„	„	„
Maternal Mortality	2.23	per 1,000 <i>Total Births</i> (live and still)		
Infant Mortality	59.0	„	„	„

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1941.

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	2	—	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	2	2
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	1	3	4
Measles	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioenceph.	—	—	—
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of buccal cavity, oesophagus, uterus ..	3	2	5
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	—	3
Cancer of breast	—	2	2
Cancer of all other sites	2	5	7
Diabetes	—	1	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	4	4	8
Heart Disease	8	10	18
Other Disease of the Circulatory System	1	3	4
Bronchitis	4	1	5
Pneumonia	4	1	5
Other Respiratory Disease	1	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	2	3
Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other Digestive Disease	3	2	5
Nephritis	3	—	3
Puerperal and post abortion sepsis	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—
Premature Birth	3	—	3
Congenital Malformation, Birth injuries, etc. ..	—	—	—
Suicide	—	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents	—	1	1
Other Violent Causes	1	—	1
All other causes	9	6	15
All causes—Total	53	46	99

INFANT MORTALITY DURING 1941.

Three infants died during the year owing to prematurity, their ages at death being: 1 hour, 7 hours, and 4 days respectively.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The Hospitals, Clinics, Treatment Centres and Ambulance facilities are described in the Report for 1938. No changes have occurred since then. This area being one of the Reception Districts for Evacuees under the Government Evacuation Scheme, provision had to be made for the treatment of (a) Contagious Diseases such as Impetigo and Scabies; (b) Difficult children and cases of Eneuresis, etc. The former are admitted to Avondale Sick Bay in Wellington Urban District (13 beds) and the latter in a requisitioned dwelling at Westford (15 beds) also in the Wellington Urban District. The provision thus made has served a very useful purpose. The District has received from other areas the following persons up to December 31st, 1941:—

Unaccompanied children	536
Mothers 119, with children 227 ..	346
Teachers, Helpers, etc.	26
Other Adults, aged, infirm and from	
Coastal Areas	150
Unofficial Evacuees	250
	<hr/>
Total	1308
	<hr/>

The number billeted in the District last year was 2,299.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Circular 2604 from the Ministry of Health prohibits the publication of matter in connection with wartime extensions of water supplies, sewerage works or other public utility undertakings.

The areas in which refuse collections is undertaken by the Council are described in the Report for 1938.

During 1941 the following materials have been salvaged by the Council and Toc H., with comparative figures in brackets for 1940:—

Waste Paper	..	..	104½ tons (62)
Rags	..	..	64 cwts. (13)
Iron	..	..	35 tons (72)
Bones	..	..	59 cwts. (10½)
Tins	..	..	6 tons (1¼)
Other Metals	..	..	2¼ tons (—)

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following statement is furnished by the Council's Sanitary Inspector:—

Nature and number of Inspections during the year:—

Dwelling-houses	..	..	83
Dwelling-houses re-inspected	..	..	192
Slaughter-houses	..	..	12
Bakehouses	..	..	9
*Disinfections for Infectious Diseases and Scabies, etc.	..	..	66
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	..	..	51
Miscellaneous Nuisances	..	..	85
Factories and Workshops	..	..	6

Number of Notices served during the year:—

Informal Notices	..	..	35
Statutory Notices	..	..	3

Result of Notices served:—

Complied with	..	..	32
In hand	..	..	17

*Includes 27 for Scabies and 2 for fleas.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.—The usual routine work has been carried out. 89 samples of milk were taken during the year (against 101 during 1940) for bacteriological examination by the County Council's Analyst:—

<i>Designation.</i>	<i>No. of Samples taken.</i>	<i>No. found satisfactory</i>	<i>No. found unsatisfactory</i>
Tuberculin Tested	28	22	6
Accredited	45	35	10
Pasteurised	4	4	0
Examined for tubercle bacilli	12	12	0
Totals ..	89	73	16

The following Licences are in force in the district:—

Tuberculin Tested Milk, 7; Accredited Milk, 11.
and in addition there is one Supplementary Milk Licence for the retail of Pasteurised Milk within the district. The Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, Register shows:—

No. of Producers on the Register	182
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No. of Distributors divided as follows:—

Distributors only	nil
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Distributors who are also Producers ..	62
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MEAT SUPPLY.—There are 8 Licensed Slaughter-houses in the District, but owing to the present emergency no animals have been slaughtered in them during the year. This is done at a Central Depot in Taunton Rural District, where the meat is inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors of that district before distribution for human consumption.

BAKEHOUSES.—There are Nine in the District and nine inspections were made of them.

HOUSING.

There was no grave overcrowding in the district by the end of the year, as 991 evacuees had returned to their homes. In addition, extra housing was found by the Council for evacuees under the Government Evacuation Scheme by selecting and requisitioning the best of the cottages condemned under the Housing Act, 1936. Forty-six cottages were taken over in this way, emergency repairs were executed and they were furnished by the Council.

During 1941 no dwellings have been dealt with under Regulation 68A of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. This Regulation was added on the 2nd July, 1940. It provides for the re-occupation of existing unoccupied houses which cannot be re-occupied without infringing Sec. 155 (3) of the Housing Act, 1936, if additional housing accommodation has to be made available for an influx of agricultural workers. Such condemned houses must be put into such a condition of cleanliness and repair by the owners as to be reasonably capable of being used as a temporary war-time measure for housing purposes without detriment to health. The Council can then issue a licence which may be revoked at any time and is not operative for more than six months at a time.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following gives the number of notifications for notifiable infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year, and the rates per 1,000 of the civilian population compared with similar rates for England and Wales as a whole (where available).

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>No. of Notiflcation.</i>	<i>Rated per 1,000 Civilian Population.</i>	
		<i>Wellington R.D.</i>	<i>E. & W.</i>
Measles	158	16.20	10.33
Pneumonia	3	0.30	1.25
Whooping Cough	28	2.87	4.39
Scarlet Fever	22	2.25	1.47
Diphtheria	3	0.30	1.25
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	0.10	0.25
Erysipelas	4	0.41	0.30
Polionmyelitis	2	0.20	—
Ophthalmia			
Neonatorum	1	0.10	—
Puerperal Fever			
(rate per 1000 live & still births)	2	18.69	11.91

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1941.

Five new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, all males, and their ages were 20, 27, 32, 45 and 57 years.

Two new cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, both females and their ages were 15 and 26 years.

Two males died of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, ages 46 and 63 years.

Two females died of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis, ages 15 and 77 years.

At the end of the year the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of 42 persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 21 persons suffering from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

TAUNTON & DISTRICT JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.

TABULATED STATEMENT FOR 1941.

Taunton Borough	143	28	3	164	4	76	111	1	9	1	3	3	—	—	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	23	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	5846	
Taunton Rural	61	6	2	61	4	33	7	1	8	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2273	
Wellington U.D.C.	78	8	3	81	2	67	1	2	1	1	1	2	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2633	
Wellington R.D.C.	27	8	1	32	2	19	1	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	849	
Dulverton Rural	33	2	—	35	—	19	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	946	
Bridgwater Rural	12	5	2	15	—	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	18	4	5	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	348	
S.C.C. *	26	3	2	26	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	811	
Taunton Borough *	10	—	—	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	95	
Staff	4	—	—	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	143	
War Office	9	2	—	11	—	5	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	280	
	403	62	13	438	14	223	241	1	22	1	2	5	1	2	16	3	5	23	5	3	3	1	1	28	3	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	14224

* Maternity and Child Welfare.

